

## "STRIGHT-UP" PROGRAM HAILED

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 23, 1998*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to four outstanding constituents of mine who have made a real contribution to fighting drugs in Northeastern Pennsylvania: Gene Fischl, Al Ottensman, Paul O'Malia, and David Stefanoski.

These four men are the founders of an anti-drug initiative called the "Straight-Up" program that involves prisoners at the Luzerne County Correctional Facility travelling to area high schools and colleges to tell students about life in prison and how drugs ruined their lives and led to their incarceration. The detailed, first-person stories conveyed by these prisoners can convey a powerful message to teenagers about the dangers of drug abuse. Given rising concern in Northeastern Pennsylvania and throughout the nation about the perils of teenage drug abuse, this sort of innovative program is an eminently worthy endeavor.

The "Straight-Up" program could not have survived since April of 1996 were it not for the dedicated work of Luzerne County Correctional Facility Warden Gene Fischl, and Sergeant David Stefanoski, Lieutenant Al Ottensman, and Lieutenant Paul O'Malia of the Luzerne County Correctional Facility. Their efforts have already affected over 21,000 Luzerne County youth. I am pleased to have had this opportunity to bring their accomplishment to the attention of my colleagues and I wish them and the "Straight-Up" program future success.

---

 TRIBUTE TO DR. HENRY WARREN  
BLAKEMAN, JR.
**HON. JOHN COOKSEY**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 23, 1998*

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Blakeman is Senior Minister of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Monroe, Louisiana. He has been minister of churches in Baton Rouge, New Orleans and most recently, Senior Minister of the 3,000 member Broadmoor United Methodist Church in Shreveport where services were broadcast each Sunday over Television Channel 3. He has also been District Superintendent of the New Orleans and North Shore Districts.

He has served on the Board of Pendleton Methodist Hospital and is currently on the Board of the Louisiana Methodist Foundation. He has directed various civic financial drives and is a consultant for the Biedenharn Bible Museum and Research Center.

Dr. Blakeman collects antiquarian books and manuscripts (dating back to 1247 AD), classic mystery fiction and enjoys classical music. His library contains over 5,000 volumes.

He is married to Mary Lou who is a prison psychologist (specialist degree) and they have three children, Jeff, Jennifer and Julie, and one granddaughter, Katie.

---

 TRIBUTE TO DR. HERATCH  
DOUMANIAN
**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 23, 1998*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to pay tribute to one of Northwest Indiana's leading physicians, Dr. Heratch Doumanian, of Merrillville, Indiana. On Sunday, September 30, 1998, Heratch will be honored by the Asian American Medical Society for his selfless, exemplary service to society, the community, and the medical profession. This Sunday, for his dedicated, consistent community work, Heratch will be awarded the Crystal Globe Award, the Asian American Medical Society's highest service award.

Each year, the Asian American Medical Society honors a prominent, extraordinary resident of Northwest Indiana for their outstanding contributions to the community. In recognition of their tremendous efforts for the betterment of Northwest Indiana, they are honored at a banquet and awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe.

This year's recipient, Dr. Heratch Doumanian, is one of the most caring, dedicated, and selfless citizens of Indiana's First Congressional District. As a physician, Heratch serves as not only a respected member of the medical community, but also as a teacher, a mentor, and a community volunteer. He offers his services and time to many professional organizations including the Radiologic Society of North America, the American Medical Society, the Lake County Medical Society, the Indiana State Medical Society, the American College of Radiology, and the Asian American Medical Society. In addition, Heratch served as the President of St. Mary's Medical staff in 1995, is a present member of the St. Mary's Medical Quality Assurance Committee, and served as the President of the Asian American Medical Society in 1988.

Since 1966, Heratch has served as a Radiologist at both the Diagnostic Outpatient Center, and the St. Mary Medical Center. In addition, he shares his knowledge as a teacher at the Indiana University Northwest Medical School. Before starting his work in 1966, Heratch attended the American University, in Beirut, Lebanon, and in 1957 he graduated from its Medical School. After graduation, Dr. Doumanian came to the United States and completed two Internships in Chicago, Illinois, at the St. Bernard Hospital from 1957-1958, and the Michael Reese Medical Center from 1959-1960. In 1960-1962, Heratch served our country as a Captain in the United States Army Medical Corps. After his military service, he completed a Residency at the University of Chicago Hospital, and he earned a Fellowship from the University of Minnesota, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. When his Fellowship ended in 1966, he moved to Northwest Indiana and began his successful medical and community work for the people of this region.

While Heratch has dedicated considerable time and energy to his work as a physician, he has always made an extra effort to give to the community. He is currently very involved in the Armenian Assembly of America, and serves the organization as a Fellow Trustee. Additionally, he is a Parish Council Member of the St.

Joachim and Anne Armenian Church, and is a member of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Chicago Chapter. Although his work and community service often limits his time, Heratch has never limited the time he gives to his most important interest, his family. He and his wife, Sonya, have three children: Greta, a lawyer; John, a medical student; and Leo, also a medical student.

The Hippocratic Oath discusses how a doctor or medical professional should conduct his life, public and private. ". . . I will lead my life and practice my art in uprightness and honour; that into whatsoever house I shall enter, I shall be for the good of the sick to the utmost of my power, holding myself far aloof from wrong, from corruption . . ." When Heratch moved to Northwest Indiana in 1966, he brought with him a dedication to uprightness and honor that has touched many lives. His dedication to the community and his family, in addition to his commitment to the unfortunate and sick are clear examples of one man working to the utmost of his power and ability. We in Northwest Indiana are lucky to be the recipients of his service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Heratch Doumanian for receiving the 1998 Crystal Globe Award from the Asian American Medical Society. Truly, Heratch has earned this recognition. His service, dedication, and altruism inspire us all to greater deeds.

---

 IN HONOR OF HIS HOLINESS POPE  
SHENOUDA III
**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 23, 1998*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Pope Shenouda III of the Coptic Orthodox Church to the United States and specifically the New Jersey/New York region.

The Coptic Church is responsible for many contributions to Christianity, including the Nicene Creed which is today recited by Christian churches around the world and thousands of biblical and theological texts produced by the early Coptic Church. Today those texts are valued by historians and theologians alike.

Pope Shenouda III is a profound theologian, an eloquent preacher, an accomplished author, and an able leader of Christian unity. Before his consecration as Pope, His Holiness was a successful student, a charismatic teacher, and a pious monk.

Since his consecration in 1971, Pope Shenouda III has led the Coptic Orthodox Church to a world-wide resurgence. In North America alone, the Coptic Church has established over 70 new churches in the last twenty years.

Pope Shenouda III has traveled around the globe in the interest of Christian unity. In 1973, His Holiness was the first Coptic Pope to visit the Vatican in over 1,500 years. His Holiness has also kept in close contact with sister Orthodox churches with visits to Constantinople, Moscow, Romania, Bulgaria, and Antioch. Pope Shenouda III has also advanced relations with many Protestant churches as shown by his dialogue with the World Alliance of Reformed Churches in 1993.

Before I conclude my remarks, I would like to thank the Consul General of Egypt in New York, Soheir Zaki, for hosting a reception for His Holiness today.

On behalf of my colleagues, I welcome Pope Shenouda III on his visit to this country, and hope that his stay is a pleasant and fruitful one.

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS SETTLEMENT PLAN FOR WESTERN SAHARA

**HON. LEE H. HAMILTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 23, 1998*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I believe the 1997 Houston Accord, negotiated under the leadership of U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan by his Personal Envoy, former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, offers the best hope for achieving a just and lasting solution to the question of the Western Sahara. However, I am concerned that the parties to the plan—the Government of Morocco and the Polisario Front—are not doing enough to meet their commitments under this agreement. A lack of cooperation by the parties is impeding the progress of the U.N. Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). On August 7, 1998 I wrote to President Clinton concerning MINURSO and implementation of the Houston Accords, and on August 31, 1998 I received a reply. The text of the correspondence follows:

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

*Washington, DC, August 7, 1998.*

The PRESIDENT,  
*The White House,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR PRESIDENT CLINTON: I write to urge you to support actively the full implementation of the United Nations Settlement Plan for Western Sahara. I commend the commitment by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to resolving this decades-long conflict as well as the extraordinary leadership and accomplishments of his Personal Envoy, former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, in successfully negotiating the 1997 Houston Accord. I believe this agreement offers the best hope for achieving a just and lasting solution to the question of the Western Sahara.

The parties to the plan—the Government of Morocco and the Polisario Front—are not doing enough to meet their commitments under this agreement. Implementation of the first phase of the Houston Accord is already some six months behind schedule, with further delays likely. I believe the United States has an important interest in the full and timely implementation of both the Houston Accord and the underlying UN Settlement Plan.

I would like to bring to your attention three areas where a lack of cooperation is impeding the progress of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

First, the two parties, as well as Algeria and Mauritania, have not concluded a status-of-forces agreement (SOFA) to facilitate the deployment of MINURSO-formed military units—including some U.S. forces. To ensure the orderly, peaceful conduct of the referendum, those forces are set to be increased as the Houston Accord enters its second phase.

I do not see how the United Nations can deploy this force without a clear, prior agreement from all parties on the conditions under which they would operate.

Second, the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) does not yet have an agreement with the Government of Morocco to formalize its presence in the Western Sahara, as is required by the Houston Accord. Without an agreement allowing it to operate freely, the UNHCR has made no progress on organizing the safe and voluntary repatriation of the Western Saharan refugees from camps in Algeria and Mauritania.

Third, the Government of Morocco has imposed restrictions on MINURSO aircraft. I am concerned about attempts to dictate to the United Nations who it may and may not transport on its own planes, and urge you to encourage the Moroccan government to refrain from such interference with MINURSO's work.

I believe U.S. support is critical to the successful implementation of this peace plan. The United States should have its own officials on the ground to report on MINURSO's progress, should press the parties directly to carry out their commitments to the peace plan, and should give strong support to the efforts of former Secretary Baker. I understand that Secretary Baker, acting on behalf of the UN Secretary General, may reconvene the Houston conference that produced this agreement, and I hope you will support his diplomacy in full.

Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,  
*Ranking Democratic Member.*

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
*Washington, August 31, 1998.*

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR LEE: I received your letter concerning the Western Sahara, and I agree with your views on the importance of full implementation of the United Nations settlement plan. I also share your concern over the slow pace of progress.

United States officials at the United Nations and in the region constantly monitor developments affecting the U.N. Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). As you are aware, the United Nations is working with Morocco, Algeria, and Mauritania to conclude a status of forces agreement (SOFA). We recognize the importance of having a SOFA in place and will continue to urge progress.

Regarding the U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), I am encouraged by the recent agreement between Moroccan and UNHCR delegations in Geneva to allow UNHCR to operate freely. UNHCR is awaiting confirmation from the Government of Morocco before proceeding, but anticipates a favorable decision.

We continually discourage Government of Morocco restrictions concerning who may and may not travel on MINURSO aircraft. As the recent presence of congressional staff on MINURSO flights demonstrates, Moroccan restrictions have not affected our ability to support the U.N. process. That said, we continue to urge the Government of Morocco to lift these restrictions, which cause Morocco to be viewed in an unfavorable light by the international community.

The U.S. embassy closely follows the settlement process in the Western Sahara through visits to Western Sahara proper and to refugee camps in Tindouf. We have also placed a U.S. official, on a short-term basis, in Western Sahara to observe and report on developments. The United States will continue to take every opportunity to urge the Government of Morocco and the Polisario to

work with the United Nations in resolving this longstanding dispute.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns on this important issue. I appreciate the active interest and positive involvement of Congress in supporting the U.N. peace process and the full implementation of the Houston Accords.

Sincerely,

*Bill.*

#### AN "OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY"

**HON. RON KLINK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 23, 1998*

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great township of Cranberry, Pennsylvania for being honored by the Pennsylvania Commerce of Business and Industry as "Outstanding Community" 1998. The award was presented on September 14, 1998, in Hershey, PA.

Founded in 1804, Cranberry has grown into a thriving township that offers a prosperous job market and a high quality of life for its citizens. Since 1990 alone it has gained more than 1,180,000 square feet of new commercial construction. Their economy is a model for the modern economy based in retail trade and the service industry. For these reasons the Pennsylvania Commerce of Business and Industry chose to honor them this year.

This is a great accomplishment for Cranberry Township as they are the first township of this size to receive the award. They provide an example for other small communities in this country on how to succeed and compete economically.

#### CELEBRATING KIDS DAY AMERICA

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 23, 1998*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the annual Kids Day America, a nationwide event that educates children about the importance of good health. Taking places at thousands of doctors' offices, Kids Day America offers health screening, educational program, fingerprinting and identification photos, among other services. This event is intended to protect the health and safety of our children—our most precious treasures.

In my Congressional District, Kids Day America was held Saturday, September 19, at the Rochelle Family Chiropractic Center in Rochelle Park, headed by Dr. David Hager. The funds raised this year will go to the Conklin Youth Center's Caring and Sharing Project in Hackensack. This important program provides care for abused children who have been removed from their parents' homes.

Free scoliosis screening and dental screening was offered to children who attended Saturday's event. In addition, the Rochelle Park Police Department fingerprinted and photographed children for identification purposes. Police officers also explained the DARE anti-drug program. McGruff the Crime Dog, Joey the Clown and free balloons helped make the event fun and entertaining for children.